

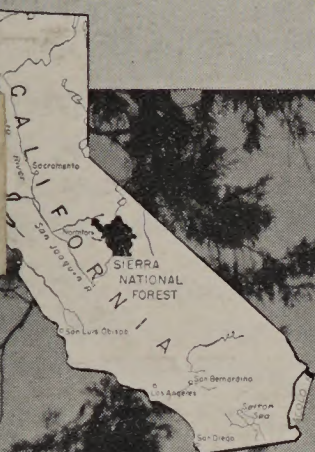
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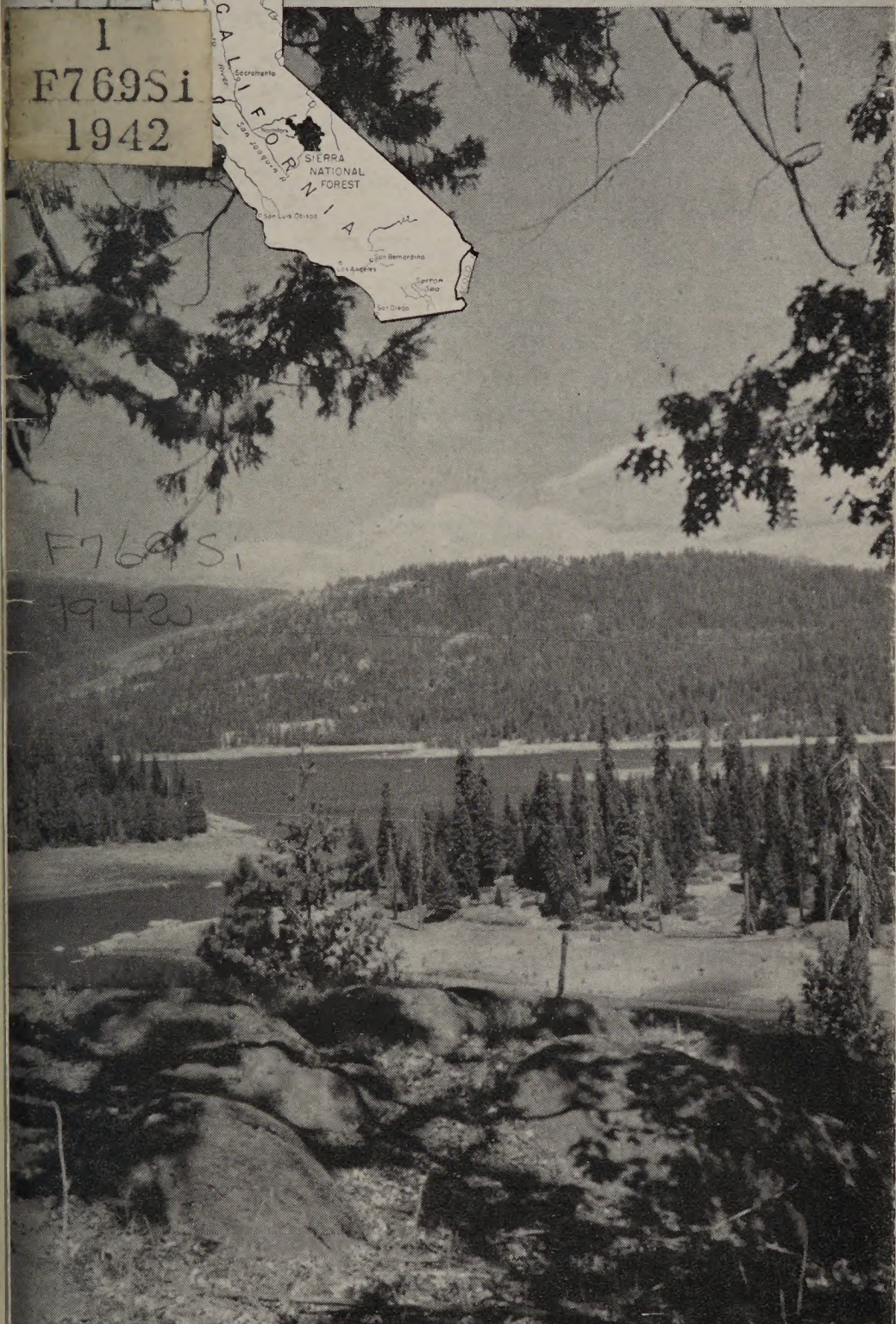
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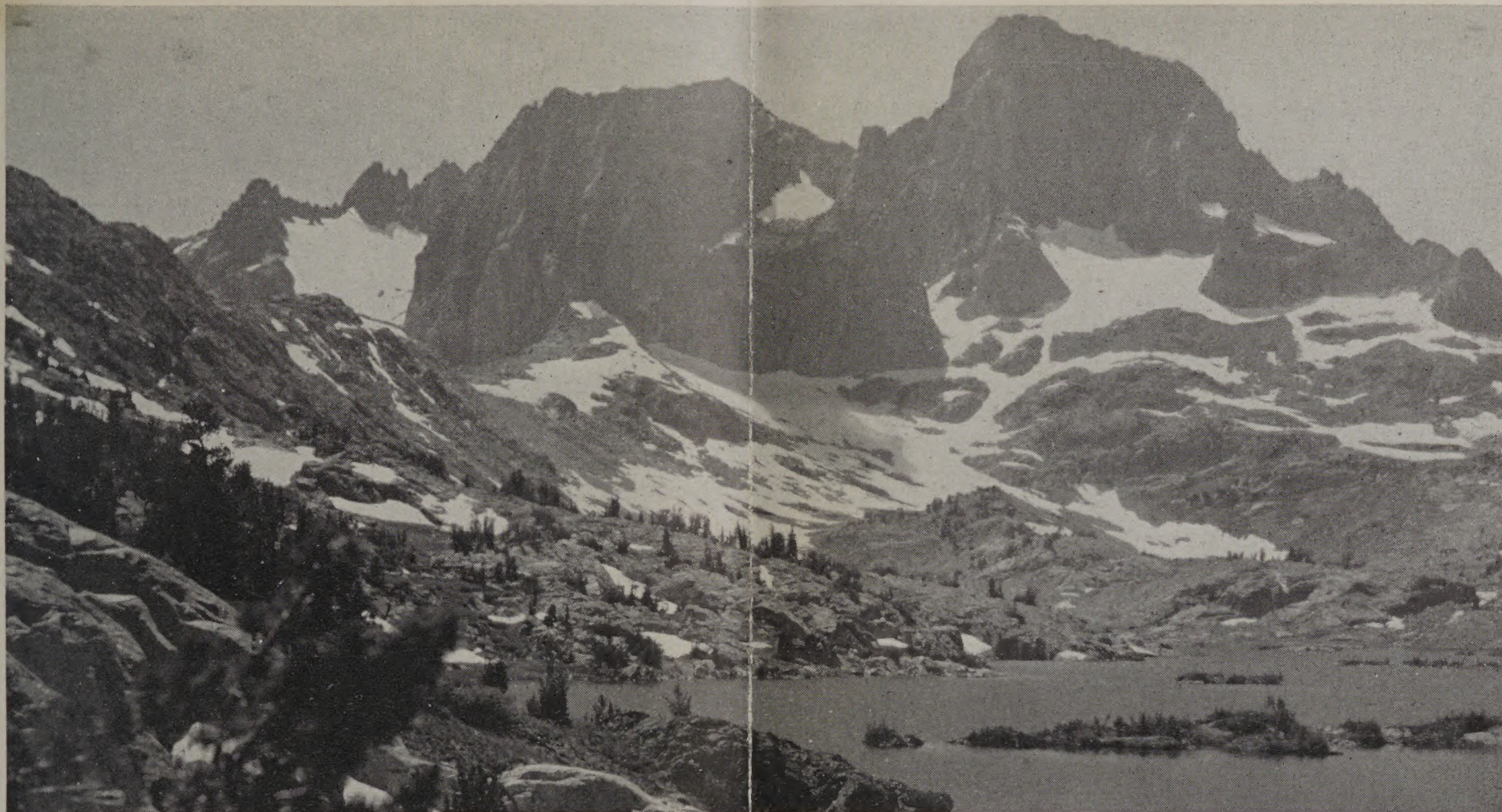


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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE CALIFORNIA REGION



Garnet Lake and the Minarets. Mount Dana-Minarets Wild Area.

F-413334

On the Slopes of the Sierra Nevada

ON THE SLOPES of the Sierra Nevada in east central California lies the Sierra National Forest. To the north of it are the Stanislaus and Mono National Forests and Yosemite National Park; on the east is the Inyo Forest; and to the south lies the Sequoia Forest, and the Sequoia and Kings River Canyon National Parks.

About 50 years ago, President Benjamin Harrison set aside in this region the Sierra Forest Reserve, the second reserve to be created in California. The Sierra was of first importance among the early forest reserves, as national forests were then called, for events and explorations within its generous boundaries led directly to the earliest conservation activities in the United States.

Its original 4,000,000 acres lay on both slopes of John Muir's "Range of Light" and was the favorite exploration ground of the great naturalist and of such enlightened and public-spirited scientists as Joseph LeConte, Professor Davidson, Dr. W. R. Dudley, and other charter members of the Sierra Club founded in 1892. According to Charles H. Shinn, pioneer conservationist and forest supervisor, the original Sierra Forest extended clear across the Sierra Nevada from the western foothills and scattered pioneer settlements to the fertile irrigated valleys of Inyo and the sagebrush of the deserts.

Logging of the giant sequoias in Converse Basin, which took place on lands in private ownership in the southern part of the original Sierra Forest Re-

serve, drew the attention of forest conservationists all over the world. The public sentiment aroused by the destruction of these magnificent trees had much to do with the first forestry legislation in the United States.

Like all other national forests, the Sierra was created primarily to provide continuous timber production and watershed protection. Although the original area has been divided among several Federal units, the Sierra is an important forest, and its 1,459,330 acres contain natural resources which are valuable to the social and economic life of the State and the Nation.



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Along the John Muir Trail in the High Sierra.



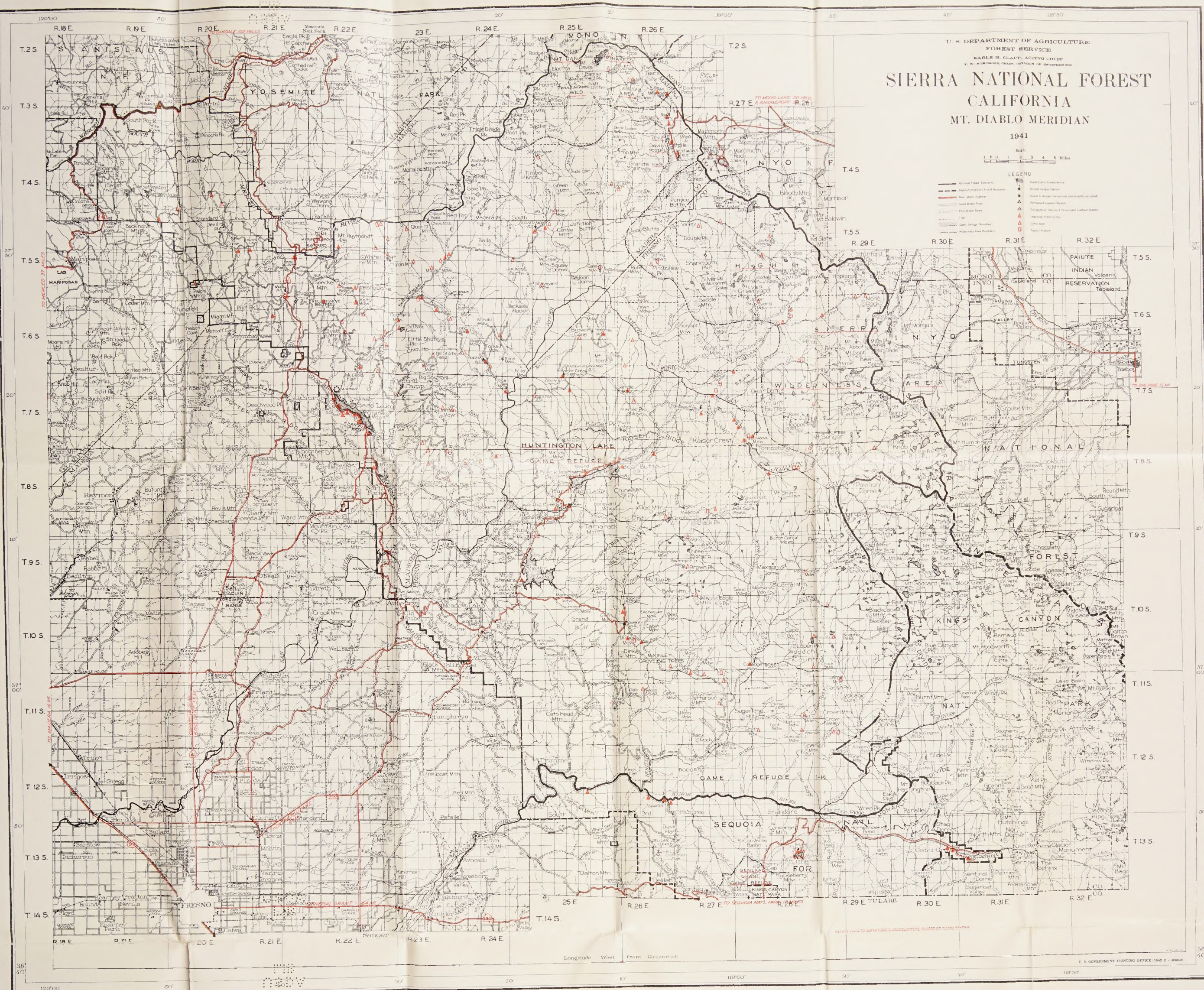
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*Headquarters of the Sierra National Forest, Northfork.
Office of the forest supervisor.*



F-406234

Fire suppression crew of the Mariposa Ranger Station.



The Forest Service management policy is one of multiple use. All of the resources of the forest—timber, forage, water, recreation, wildlife—are administered with the aim of bringing about the highest productive use of land without interfering with the primary objective of timber production and watershed protection. Mutual agreement by agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture provides opportunity for a working relationship with county agricultural planning groups and communities.

Timber and Forage

There is enough virgin timber on the Sierra National Forest to produce an annual sustained produc-

How To Get There

Starting point	Forest destination and route	Miles
Fresno.....	Trimmer.....	40
Fresno.....	Huntington Lake via Tollhouse.	67
Fresno.....	Huntington Lake via Auberry.	75
Fresno.....	Florence Lake.....	95
Fresno.....	Northfork via Friant....	49
Fresno.....	Bass Lake via Friant....	57
Fresno.....	Bass Lake via Coarse ¹ Gold.	55
Fresno.....	South Entrance via ¹ Coarse Gold.	63
Merced.....	Yosemite via Mariposa ²	81

The Sierra National Forest can be reached in 2 hours time by three main highways from Fresno or Merced. Shaver and Huntington Lakes and the Dinkey Creek area via State Route 168 through Clovis, and the Bass Lake area via State Route 41 through Friant or Coarse Gold are the principal and most easily accessible recreational centers. From these highways, well-developed forest roads and trails lead to the High Sierra back country and wilderness areas.

¹ State Route 41.
² All-Year Highway.



Globe Rock on the road to Beasore Meadows.



Summer home at Huntington Lake.



Mama Bruin and her cubs on an exploring trip.

tion of 90 million board feet of lumber. This timber is being harvested so that the original logged-over lands can be cut a second time.

In 1940 over 14,000 cattle and 16,000 sheep belonging to 130 resident livestock owners were grazed on the Sierra National Forest under Forest Service permit.

Water Conservation

Four major streams have their source within the Sierra Forest—the Kings, San Joaquin, Fresno, and Merced Rivers. These, together with several smaller drainages, furnish water to 300,000 persons living on farms and in communities in the San Joaquin Valley.

Power plants on the Sierra Forest have an installed capacity sufficient to generate 563,000 hp. In 1940 these plants produced 2,514,130,000 kilowatt-hours, worth, on a conservative estimate, \$7,500,000. The power generated is used in the interconnected system of the Southern California Edison Co. and, when

desirable, in the system of the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. covering all of northern California.

The protecting cover of trees, shrubs, and grass which clothes the mountains whence these streams rise is of paramount importance. For this reason, especially, the prevention of forest fires is imperative. The life of the Friant Reservoir, part of the State-wide water development of the Central Valley Project, depends upon keeping fire out of the Sierra Forest. Silting, from erosion following the destruction of the forest cover by fire, would destroy the usefulness of the reservoir.

Recreational Uses

From time immemorial the mountains have been a haven of refuge for mankind. Men formerly retreated to the mountains when overpowered by their enemies or when drought or famine drove them from the valleys. Nowadays the mountains furnish immense recreational areas, thus contributing to the



Sally Keyes Lakes.

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F-413333

Looking southwest from Hell-For-Sure Pass on the Le Conte Divide.



F-413336

Camping in the High Sierra Wilderness Area.



F-413337

Dude ranch near Florence Lake,

public health, happiness, and welfare. Recreation, once considered more or less a luxury, has now become a necessity in which our national forests play an important role.

It is the policy of the Forest Service to administer the recreational resources with a minimum of restrictions consistent with the protection of the national forests and the welfare of the people dependent on them. Recreational development provides for the health and safety of visitors and for simple facilities for their comfort and convenience. Physical improvements are made to harmonize with the forest environment insofar as possible.

The San Joaquin Valley is especially fortunate in having mountain lands of unusual beauty within a few hours' drive over well-paved roads. They pro-

What To Do When Lost

1. Stop, sit down, and try to figure out where you are. Use your head, not your legs.

2. If caught by night, fog, or storm, stop at once and make camp in a sheltered spot. Build a fire in a safe place. Gather plenty of dry fuel.

3. Don't wander about. Travel only downhill. Follow water courses or ridges.

4. If injured, choose a cleared spot on a promontory, if possible, and make a signal smoke. Forest Service fire look-outs are on duty day and night and will see your smoke.

5. Don't yell, don't run, don't worry, and **DON'T QUIT**.

6. Lost persons should remember the figure "3." The SOS call in the mountains is 3 signals of any kind, either audible or visible—3 whistles, 3 flashes from a flashlight, etc. The answer to a distress signal is 2 audible or visible signals.

vide rest and relaxation and return rich dividends in physical health and mental well-being. The clear, cold mountain streams rush down from glacial lakes through green mountain meadows and gorgeous canyons and eventually furnish water for irrigation and domestic use in the fertile valley lands of the San Joaquin empire.

Farmers and businessmen in the valleys have their markets greatly expanded through purchases made by national-forest visitors. Local people add to their incomes by furnishing quarters for vacationists.

Summer homes and resorts are a considerable source of tax revenue to the counties. It is estimated that at least \$250,000,000 is spent annually in communities on or adjacent to the national forests throughout the United States in connection with recreational activities.

During the past decade, through facilities of the Civilian Conservation Corps, unusual progress has been made in road and campground development. The public has made use of these improvements in ever-increasing numbers.

Wildlife and Fish

Deer is the principal big-game animal. It is estimated that there are at least 38,000 deer on the Sierra Forest. Black and brown bear, mountain lions, and the smaller fur-bearing animals are fairly plentiful.

There are 1,450 miles of streams and many lakes within the Sierra Forest well stocked with trout. Other lakes and streams are being stocked as rapidly as possible by the Forest Service, working in cooperation with the State Division of Fish and Game, sportsmen's clubs, etc. Many lakes heretofore barren of fish are being stocked exclusively with golden trout, which is native to the High Sierra.

State Game Refuges

The watershed on the north side of the middle fork of Kings River between Tombstone and the mouth of the north fork of Kings River has been set aside by the State as a breeding ground for deer and is known as Game Refuge 1-K. Hunting within this refuge is prohibited.

The Huntington Lake State Game Refuge, covering 39,000 acres surrounding Huntington Lake, was created in 1931 for the protection, conservation, and propagation of wildlife. Firearms may be possessed legally within the refuge, but may not be discharged for any reason whatsoever. Game lawfully possessed outside the boundaries of the refuge may be possessed within.

Sportsmen should inform themselves of the location of game refuges and the restrictions in connection with their use. All are closed to hunting, but fishing is allowed.

Deer Hunting and Deer Registers

Deer hunting in the Sierra National Forest is an established custom with many hunters from the San Joaquin Valley. They return to their favorite camps each fall and, like good woodsmen, cooperate willingly with the Forest Service in the prevention of forest fires.

It has been the custom for many years to ask the deer hunters to register and to report statistics on

Forest Administration

National forests are administered by the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. The headquarters of the forest supervisor of the Sierra National Forest is at Northfork, Madera County, Calif. District ranger headquarters are as follows:

<i>District</i>	<i>Headquarters</i>	<i>Post Office</i>
Mariposa.....	Miami.....	Oakhurst.
Northfork....	Northfork....	Northfork.
Pineridge....	Big Creek....	Big Creek.
Kings River..	Dinkey.....	Dinkey Creek.
Minaret.....	Reds Meadow	Mammoth Lakes.
High Sierra..	High Sierra..	Lakeshore.
	Ranger Station.	

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FOREST SERVICE



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Hydroelectric plant on Big Creek.

deer to forest officers. This information provides data on the number of deer, their condition, and the forage supply, which is useful in the management of wildlife resources.

Dogs and Guns

Guns may be brought into the Sierra National Forest, but no shooting is permitted in the vicinity of camps or places of habitation.

Dogs are allowed under certain restrictions. In national-forest campgrounds owners must see that



F-406233

Crystal Peak Lookout. One of the "eyes of the Forest Service."

their dogs do not interfere with other users. During the open season the State allows one dog per hunter to take deer.

Wild and Wilderness Areas

To preserve in their wilderness state typical mountain and forest areas in California, the Forest Service has set apart tracts of national-forest land for the use and enjoyment of all the people. Such areas will be preserved in a natural state and will

not be developed by road building or other forms of permanent recreational occupancy. Two such areas have been established in the Sierra National Forest, as follows:

Dana-Minarets Wild Area, embracing 87,140 acres in the Sierra and Mono National Forests, and extending from Tioga Pass southward to the Devil Postpile National Monument. This area includes the celebrated Minarets, Thousand Island Lake, and Shadow Lake country.

High Sierra Wilderness Area, containing 393,945 acres in the Sierra, Sequoia, and Inyo National Forests, and extending along the crest of the High Sierra from the Mammoth Lakes southward to the Kings Canyon National Park. This is a region of rugged snowcapped mountains, traversed in part by the John Muir trail, and is one of the outstanding wilderness areas in the West.

To The Wayfarer

"Ye who pass me by and would raise your hand against me, harken ere you harm me. I am the heat of your hearth on the cold winter nights; the friendly shade in screening you from the summer sun; and my fruits are the refreshing draughts quenching your thirst as you journey on.

"I am the beam that holds your house, the board of your table, the bed on which you lie, and the timber that builds your boat. I am the handle of your hoe, the door of your homestead, the wood of your cradle, and the shell of your coffin.

"I am the bread of kindness and the flower of beauty. Ye who pass by listen to my prayer:

"HARM ME NOT!"

(From a poster found in the public parks of Spain.)

Packers and Guides

A list of approved packers and guides, authorized to operate on the national forest and holding packing permits from the Forest Service, can be obtained by writing the forest supervisor.

Winter Sports

Winter sports have become in recent years almost as important as the summer recreational uses of national forests.

In the Sierra National Forest, Shaver Lake and Fish Camp are the favorite areas. Shaver Lake is 56 miles northeast of Fresno on State Route 168. There are ski runs, ski trails, and toboggan slides here; hotels and resorts provide meals and lodging.

Fish Camp is 68 miles northeast of Fresno on State Route 41. The accommodations are ski runs, ski lift, ski trails, slalom course, skating, meals, cabins, and dormitories.

Summer-Home Tracts

Summer-home tracts on Forest Service lands, where lots can be leased under special use permit for \$15 to \$25 a year, are located at Huntington Lake, Bass Lake, along Dinkey Creek, and other localities. Applicants for lots should apply to the nearest district ranger station for information and instructions about leasing lots and building summer homes on national forests.

Good Manners in the Forest

A good sportsman, camper, or tourist, when he goes into the national forests—

First obtains a campfire permit. Carries a shovel and ax. Smokes only in camp. Puts his fire dead out with water. Leaves a clean and sanitary camp. Observes the State fish and game laws. Cooperates with the forest rangers in reporting and suppressing fires. Preaches what he practices.

DO YOU?

If You Don't Know—Ask a U. S. Forest Ranger.

If you find a forest fire, put it out if you can. If you cannot put it out, report it to the forest supervisor, the ranger, the sheriff, or the nearest telephone operator. Locations of the headquarters of the supervisor and the rangers are indicated on the map.

Rules for Forest Visitors

Visitors to the Sierra National Forest are required to observe the following rules:

1. A campfire permit must be secured before building any fire, including fires in stoves burning wood, kerosene, or gasoline, on national-forest land. Permit is also required for a stove in an auto trailer. The nearest forest officer will issue a permit to you without charge.

2. Every camping party in the national forests must be equipped with a shovel and an ax per vehicle or pack train. Shovel, with blade at least 8 inches wide, and an over-all length of 36 inches; ax, not less than 26 inches long over-all, with head weighing 2 pounds or more. Both of these tools must be in serviceable condition. All camping parties will be expected to obtain these tools before entering the national forests.

3. Unless publicly displayed signs state to the contrary, smoking is prohibited in the national forests during fire season, except in camp, at places of habitation, and in special posted areas. Smokers must be careful to extinguish their lighted matches, cigars, cigarettes, and pipe heels. Watch for "Smoke Here" signs indicating safe places to smoke.

4. During critical fire danger periods, parts or all of the national forest may be closed to public use and travel. Watch for "Closed Area" signs.

5. Never leave a fire without totally extinguishing it.

6. Keep your camp clean. Where garbage pits and incinerators are not provided, burn or bury all garbage and refuse.

7. Do not pollute the springs, streams, or lakes by insanitary acts.

8. Observe the State fish and game laws.

9. Drive carefully on mountain roads.

Your cooperation and compliance with these regulations are requested.

This is your forest. Help protect it by being careful. Burned forests pay no wages, build no homes.